(d) if so, the viewpoint of Government and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The National Knowledge Commission has *inter-alia* recommended expansion in higher education by establishing 1500 more Universities and establishment of 50 National Universities.

(b) Universities can be established, with or without public funding by Parliament as well as the same Legislations, under the relevant entries of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission are in the public domain for wider debate among all stake-holders.

Financial assistance to girl child

3372. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new scheme commenced in the last Budget to provide for cash incentive of Rs. 3,000/- per girl child who passes VIII standard and enrolls in a Secondary School has not yet been implemented;

(b) whether any fund has been earmarked in the Budget for the current year and any fund has been released out of it; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A token provision of Rs. 1.00 crore has been provided in Budget 2007-08 for this scheme. No fund has yet been released.

(c) The scheme is under formulation in consultation with Planning Commission and other relevant Ministries.